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## Private Industry

## Work For the Jobless

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### COUNCIL'S STATEMENT

The Executive Council's statement:

"The mid-winter meeting, could not deal with without giving careful and most serious economic conditions prevailing throughout the Executive Council, numbering many the continuation of unemployment and ad-

"and the creation of work opportunities work, in private industry, have ever been of the American Federation of Labor. serve these purposes.

"between 1929, when unemployment until the present moment the Executive government, with industrial management

that new workmen and women thrown out new positions in private industry. Both indicated the position assumed and maintained by Labor upon economic, social and industrial forms of government spending, and the development and maintenance of relief wages to unemployed, can only serve and do not provide a permanent solution. Goods and service can be increased and on of a sound economic policy whereby masses of the people a buying power and consume the manufactured goods is prepared to supply. Conclusion that private industry and business so that the facilities of production may

We believe that private initiative, private investment and private endeavor in private industry should be encouraged and supported. We assert that those who invest in private industry should earn a fair return upon each investment and that labor should be paid a wage which would accord to all workers and their families an opportunity to live in decency and comfort.

**Held Essential**

"We urge the development of the highest and most perfect form of cooperation between management and labor. We are convinced that the best interests of all the people of the entire nation can be served through the acceptance by those who administer the affairs of our government and by the law-making bodies of the nation of the well considered plans and recommendations which both management and labor can, as a result of long and varied experience."

**Millions of Jobless Have Continued Since 1929**

"The continuous existence of an army of unemployed, numbering more than ten million workers, is appalling. The records of the American Federation of Labor show that there were ten mil-

Non, three hundred and eighty thousand workers unemployed during the month of December, 1928. The records made up and kept by the American Federation of Labor show that since 1929 the unemployed have numbered from eight to fourteen million continuously. During these ten years we have experimented in various relief measures and many organizations affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

"If the unemployed could be accorded the opportunity to work in private industry the spending of millions of dollars for relief purposes would cease. This would mean that the burden of taxation could be reduced and the national income increased. The spirit and morale of the unemployed workers would be lifted to a higher basis.

**Industry's Supreme Duty Is to Provide Work for the Unemployed**

"We are of the opinion that the responsibility for absorbing the unemployed in private industry should be placed squarely upon the owners and management of the plants and factories of the Government. This can be done if and when the Government, industrial management and Labor cooperate in a full and complete way. The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor stands ready and willing to assist and to render all service possible in the promotion of a plan which will provide for the employment, in private industry, of the millions who are now idle."

## EXCISE TAX ON IMPORTS STUDIED BY A. F. OF L.

*By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.*

The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor at its recent meeting at Miami, Florida, directed William Green, president of the Federation, to secure all possible information bear-

ing upon the proposal made by the American Wage Earners Protective Conference that an excise tax be placed on imported goods so as to put foreign manufactured merchandise on a price parity with goods of similar quality made in the United States.

